

Subject: ABA

Hello, My name is Mercedes VonRenzell. I am sending this letter because I have a 4 year old son who is autistic. We have been lucky enough to receive services through autism services of Lincoln and have seen tremendous positive changes in our son. I'm writing this because I feel very strongly that anyone trying to practice behavior analytic services, should absolutely be required to have training before they are able to practice. A lot of our children start out non verbal and remain that way for a long time if not forever and it's incredibly terrifying to trust someone with them already, let alone someone who could possibly not have any training in this field. I am a licensed cosmetologist and feel there are more stricter rules set in place to practice hair in the state of Nebraska, than to require it for behavior analytic services. I strongly believe you have to have tons of first hand experience with children like mine to be able to teach them how they learn and look at the world through their eyes. Our ABA techs and BCBA's we have been lucky enough to work with have done wonders for my son. He is now verbal and very much communicating his wants and needs daily. Had we gone somewhere else without realizing they didn't have any prior training, our experience could have been very different. As a special needs mother and a very strong supporter of Autism and ABA, please require state level protections to ensure practitioners are qualified to practice so our babies can get the best possible care and experiences they deserve. Thank you for your time.